

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting**  
**Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**  
**March 22, 2021**

**Present:** Jacob Benda, Joyce Brown, Nils Halker, David Jenkins, Laura Potratz, Phillip Radtke,  
Joe Trucano, John Varona

**Absent:** Dave Geslin, Liisa Keranen, Lise Schmidt, Jessica Park, Kris Rizzotto,

**Call to Order** by Dean David Jenkins at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App hosted by St. Paul Seminary

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Dean David Jenkins led a brief discussion with board members on our wellbeing at this time.

The February minutes were approved as corrected.

**Report:** Secretary's report given by Joyce Brown

This year's 2021 ballot will have the following candidates:

Dean: Jacob Benda

Sub Dean: Jennifer Anderson

Treasurer: David Geslin

Secretary: Joyce Brown

Class of 2023 Candidates:

Isaac Drews

Kathrine Handford

Kristina Langlois

Stacie Lightner

Scott Turkington

The ballots for the election should be mailed out shortly and returned by April 20. The results will be published in the May newsletter. We thank the nominating committee chair Carolyn Diamond, and the committee members Laura Edman, Jeremy Haug, Lise Schmidt and Robert Vickery

**Report:** There was no treasurer's report this month.

**Report:** Program report given by Jacob Benda

The Before Bach Birthday Bash was a big success. Thank you is extended to Jacob Benda and the programming committee for organizing this, to Jeremy Haug for technical help and support, and to Michael Barone for coordinating the musicians.

The outreach this year exceeded all expectations. Jeremy Haug shared some interesting facts: the social media outreach included: 8,497 views on Facebook, and 706 engagements (open, likes, shares, comments); and over 1,500 views on the TCAGO YouTube channel. Some notable demographic highlights include

1. 36% are women, and 63% are men
2. We have a nice spread of age with the highest in 25 to 34; 35-44 and 65+
3. We have most of the reach in the United States; but a notable reach in the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy, Australia; France, Nigeria, Austria, Netherlands, and Poland.
4. Minneapolis and St. Paul (Twin Cities surrounding area) are the top cities represented, closely followed by New York, Northfield, London, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Indianapolis

This truly is a worthwhile project.

**Report:** Pipe Organ Heritage Committee report given by Nils Halker

Nils Halker explained the start of the Pipe Organ Heritage Committee. In 1997 a Minnesota Chapter of the Organ Historical Society was formed. In 2017, the Organ Historical Society had their convention in the Twin Cities. It was well attended and well received. The OHS members are interested in many of the same topics as the AGO even though the constituencies are different. The local chapter is small and it is felt that it might be easier to go forward by merging with the AGO locally. There is hope that there will be joint events in the future.

**Report:** Dean's report given by David Jenkins

-The professional concerns Zoom meeting was attended by 33 participants. This is a good start to re-energize the Professional Concerns Committee. It is suggested that a letter announcing the available handbook "Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions" be sent to regional

denominational organizations, area college organ professors, MSP Church gigs, other Facebook/Instagram sites and funeral homes. It is also noted that a link on our chapter web page will be helpful.

-Future Professional Concerns Committee event topics might include: substitute organists, techniques and opportunities for online worship, joint events with denominational groups, compensation and agreements, and an ecumenical panel on the integral role of music in worship.

-The election will be done by paper ballots this year. This will ensure that it is accurate and anonymous. Electronic options were considered but found not to be workable.

-The Pipe Organ Discovery Day is being worked on by Phil Asgian. It will be a virtual event.

-The Audit Committee is need of another member.

**Motion:** Nils Halker moved that the meeting close.

Second: Laura Potratz

Meeting adjourned at 8:04

Joyce Brown, Secretary

